

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Inventory Number: 210010 CH-937

Address: 8530 Port Tobacco Road, Charles County - in the vicinity of Port Tobacco

Owner: Welch, Linda D and Phillip L Jr. James M. III & Susan J. Simpson

Tax Parcel Number: 262 15 Tax Map Number: 43

Project MD 301 Agency State Highway Administration (SHA)

Site visit by SHA Staff: X no \_\_\_ yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_ Eligibility **not** recommended X

Criteria \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G X None

Is property located within a historic district?: X no \_\_\_ yes Name of District: \_\_\_\_\_

Is district listed?: X no \_\_\_ yes

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Project Review and Compliance Files

**Description of Property and Eligibility Determination** *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The farm complex at 8530 Plenty Highlands Road consists of a single family dwelling and two barns. The wood frame dwelling is two stories in height and four-bays wide. The house is covered by a side gable roof. The one-story full-width porch is supported by simple wood posts and has a half-hipped roof. The doors and windows have wide wood surrounds. The barn is two-stories and has a front gambrel roof. One of the barns is one-story with a side gable, standing seam metal roof. The other barn is two-stories with a front gable roof with a shed extension. Both barns are clad with vertical wood siding and are in poor condition.

Most inhabitants of Charles County were engaged in farming at the time of the first settlement. The barn was the principle building erected on a farm which provided space for cows, horses, equipment, and hay, straw or tobacco storage. Throughout the 19th century, barns increased in size or were newly built to include space for smaller animals, such as poultry and pigs, and as a place for the threshing and storage of grain. Their size also increased during the 19th century as the introduction of improved equipment led to more efficient and profitable operations, and, consequently, to increased need for storage facilities. Typically, livestock was housed on the lower level,

Prepared by EHT Traceries, Inc.

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[Signature]  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

8/27/09  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, NR Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

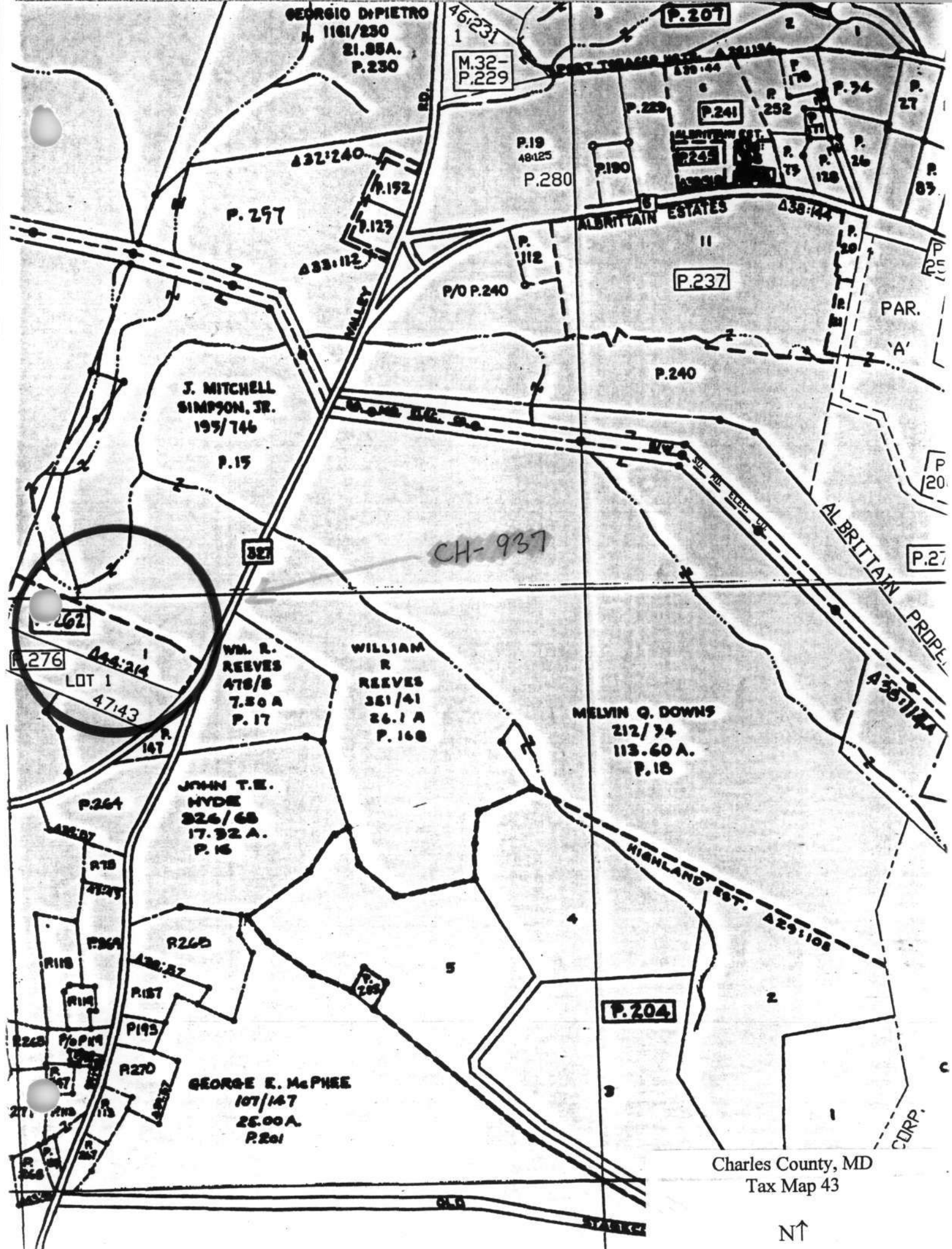
while the upper level was reserved for the storage of hay and straw, and the threshing and storage of feed grains.

Charles County's late 19th- and early 20th-century history is dominated by industrial and urban development. The greatest impact upon community growth came from the railroad. The completion of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad's (B&P) mainline from Bowie in Prince George's County to Pope's Creek in Charles County in 1872 prompted local entrepreneurs to establish stores and other commercial facilities near the railroad stations. The B&P Railroad also made inland farms accessible, thus, increasing their value and revitalizing the practice of agriculture in Southern Maryland. La Plata station still stands at the intersection of the rail line with Charles Street.

As La Plata grew, Charles County citizens lobbied to have the county seat moved from Port Tobacco to La Plata. La Plata became the county seat of Charles County's government in 1895 and a new courthouse was erected in 1896.

Towards the end of the first quarter of the 20th century, road improvements and developments also contributed to Charles County's community evolution. In particular, the Robert Crain Highway, later expanded as part of U.S. 301, attracted new development to older communities along its corridor. Crain Highway brought commercial development on La Plata's west side and contributed to the Charles County seat's overall growth in the 1920s and 1930s.

Built circa 1890, this I-house and wood frame barns are not eligible for the National Register. While this farm complex is an earlier example of the residential and agricultural development surrounding La Plata, these resources lack significance related to events, persons, or architecture. Criterion D, information potential, was not assessed for this study.

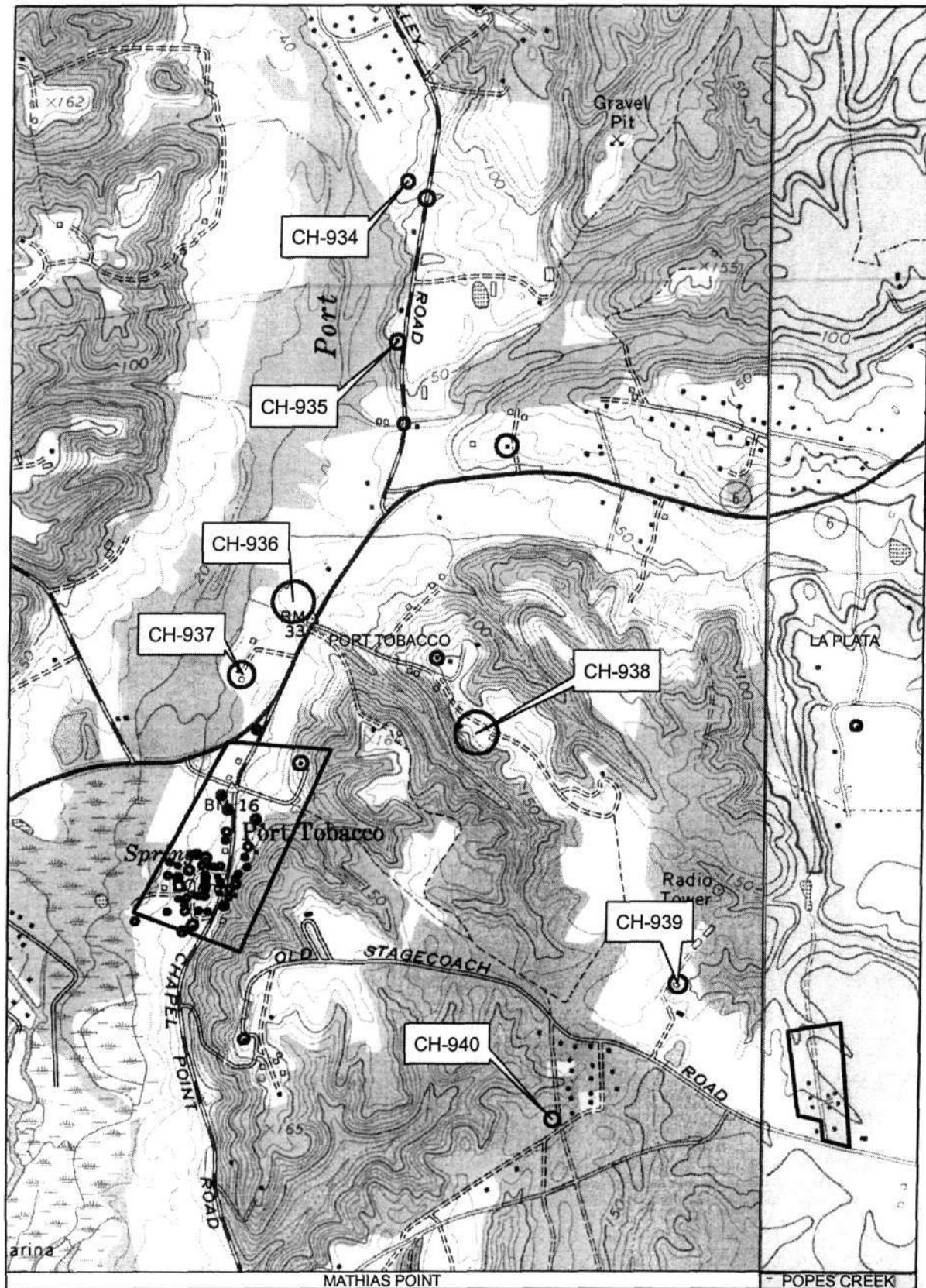


Charles County, MD  
Tax Map 43

N↑



CH-937  
Port  
Tobacco  
Quad





~~CH-937~~ CH-937

8530 Port Tobacco Road

Charles County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

View looking southwest

1 of 2



~~XXXXXX~~ CH-937

8530 Port Tobacco Road

Charles County, MD

Traceries

June 1999

MD SHPO

View looking south

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